

Altona Primary School Newsletter

MAY 2025: TERM 2 WEEK 4



Principal's Report

Dear APS Families,

The first three weeks of Term 2 have been very busy, with lots of exciting events taking place across the school. These excursions and incursions create lasting memories for our students and provide meaningful learning opportunities. Sarah remains on leave for another two weeks and is eagerly awaiting her return to reconnect with everyone. I've thoroughly enjoyed stepping into her role and have been keeping her regularly updated on all the wonderful things happening at APS.

CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

Progress continues on our new playground and fencing. With the removal of some of the black hoarding, students have been enjoying watching the works unfold. You can get a great view from Upton Street, and I expect to provide an estimated completion date soon. It's an exciting transformation, and we're all looking forward to using this space. Last week, our local Minister, Melissa Horne, visited the site and was very impressed with the development. She looks forward to returning once the project is complete.

STAFFING UPDATE

As shared previously, Tim Rouse is on leave for Term 2. During the Term 1 break, we appointed Thomas McCay as our new music teacher. He brings a wealth of experience and has been teaching classes over the past three weeks. As Thomas is not working full-time, we've made alternate arrangements for some grades. Hannah Liacopoulos, Christine Sperling, and Helen Xinomilakis will support music coverage. We'll share further updates as we prepare for Term 3.

ANZAC DAY SERVICE

In Week 1, the students of 3/4P led our school's ANZAC Day service. Each student spoke and presented beautifully, reflecting on the meaning of the day and our school oath. Special thanks to Aimee Richardson (6M) who represented APS at the Altona RSL service and laid a wreath on our behalf.

SSV STATE SWIMMING CHAMPIONSHIPS

On May 1, I had the pleasure of attending the State Swimming Championships at MSAC to support Amelie S (6M). Competing in the 11-year-old Girls' 50m Butterfly and Freestyle, Amelie was the fastest qualifier in both events. She powered to victory in the Butterfly, claiming her second State Championship in a row! In the Freestyle, she held off tough competition to win with a time of 30.22 seconds, just 0.1 off the state record. What an incredible achievement—congratulations, Amelie! APS is so proud of you.

Dates to Remember

12th - 14th May
Grade 5 Camp

16th May
Grade 1 Marvellous Mini-beasts
Incursion

14th, 21st & 28th May
Grade 5/6 Life Education

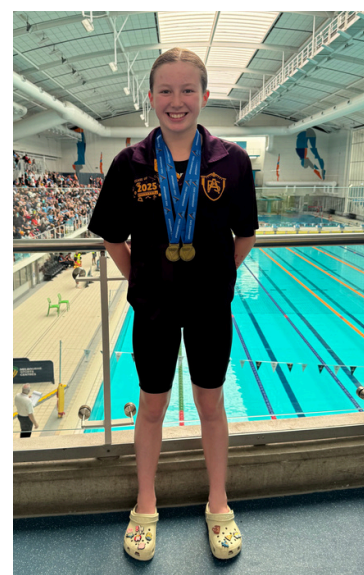
6th June
Curriculum Day
(no students at school)

9th June
Kings Birthday Public Holiday

4th July
Last Day Term 2: 2:30pm
dismissal

TERM 3 and 4 CURRICULUM DAYS
21st July
3rd November

See our whole school calendar
on our website for all dates



We acknowledge the Bunurong People of the Kulin Nation as the traditional owners of the land.

We pay our respects to elders past, present and emerging.

We are grateful for the land that we live, learn and play on every day.

www.altonaps.vic.edu.au





UNEARTHED' – MILLENNIUM TIME CAPSULE

Last week, Athena Petalas (3/4P) and Joanne Mathrick (PM) attended the unveiling of a Millennium Time Capsule, buried 25 years ago. It was exciting to see what APS contributed to the capsule—we look forward to sharing more details soon.

DISTRICT CROSS COUNTRY

On Wednesday, May 7, 24 of our students participated in the District Cross Country at McIver Reserve in Yarraville. Their early morning training paid off, with APS placing 4th out of 8 schools—a fantastic result!

Congratulations to the 11 students who qualified for the Hobsons Bay Divisionals: Ava F (2nd), Zoe W (2nd), Zara H (3rd), Aaron B (4th), Rory H (7th), Bella C (5th), Alulu S (6th), Sophie V (7th)

APS Cross Country Team: Kai M, Aaron L, Jake C, Bennett W, Isla F, Ava F, Isa R, Ruby S, Aaron B, Rory H, Archer M, Dex K, Zoe W, Zara H, Annie T, Hannah S, Amelie S, Bella C, Sophie V, Delilah W, Alulu S, Polly G, Jackson J, Desi M, Henry T, Jake H.

ATHLETICS CARNIVALS

This week, Mr. Fava and the Grade 3–6 team hosted two well-organised Athletics Carnival days. Students performed brilliantly and results will help us form the APS Athletics Team. Stay tuned for more information soon.

MOTHER'S DAY CELEBRATIONS

A big thank you to our Friends and Family Committee for putting together a wonderful Mother's Day stall. The P–2 Mother's Day Picnic was also a lovely way to wrap up Week 3. I hope all the APS mums had a very happy and relaxing Mother's Day!

INTER-SCHOOL SPORT

Winter Inter-School Sport has begun for our Grade 6s and selected Grade 5s. Our students continue to represent APS with pride and great sportsmanship.

EXCURSIONS & INCURSIONS

- Preps had a fantastic first excursion to Melbourne Zoo, full of animal adventures.
- Grade 3/4s went on a city excursion across two days. Students showed resilience and had a great learning experience. Thanks to the families who supported making this excursion successful.
- Grade 2s participated in an Animal Adaptation Incursion, exploring their inquiry topic. Photos will be shared soon!

GRADE 6L COFFEE SHOP

It's been great seeing Mr. Liacopoulos and 6L launch their classroom coffee shop. The students are thoroughly enjoying the experience—and so are the families receiving their morning coffee! More info coming soon.

**VALUES
AWARDS**









Healthy, Interesting and Affordable Lunch Packs, Delivered to School
ALTONA – BLYTH ST – Term 2 – Monday, Wednesday, Thursday & Friday!
Order until 8:30am on the day!
2 Course Lunch Pack from \$6.45

Choose a Main Course item, then select 1 or 2 Items from the Snack/Drink Menu to make up a 2 or 3 Course Lunch Pack

Main Course Menu		2 Course Lunch	3 Course Lunch
BAKERY All items freshly baked this morning!			
Cheese and Vegemite Scroll (v)	\$6.45	\$8.95	
Savoury Bite 'Little Frank' Roll	\$6.45	\$8.95	
Topped with Only Cheese Roll (v)	\$6.45	\$8.95	
Cheese and Bacon Roll	\$7.45	\$9.95	
Scroll with Ham and Cheese	\$9.95	\$12.85	
Frankfurt 'in a blanket' with Sauce & Cheese (2)	\$10.95	\$13.65	
PIZZA, SAUSAGE ROLLS, GOZ & PASTIZZI SERVED AT ROOM TEMPI			
Ricotta & Spinach Pastizzi (2) (v)	\$7.45	\$9.95	
Margherita Pita Pizza (v)	\$8.95	\$11.45	
Sausage Roll with Sauce	\$8.95	\$11.45	
Ham & Pineapple Pizza Slice	\$10.95	\$13.65	
BBQ Chicken Pizza (v)	\$10.95	\$13.65	
Vegetarian Pizza (v)	\$10.95	\$13.65	
Lamb and Beef Gozleme (v)	\$13.45	\$15.45	
Mushroom and Spinach Gozleme (v)	\$13.45	\$15.45	
Spinach and Cheese Gozleme (v)	\$13.45	\$15.45	
SUSHI HAND ROLLS (2pc) Soy Sauce (GF) Provided			
Teriyaki Chicken Hand Rolls (v)	\$11.50	\$13.75	
Crispy Chicken (Schnitzel) Hand Rolls (v)	\$11.50	\$13.75	
Cooked Tuna Hand Rolls (v)	\$11.50	\$13.75	
Avocado Hand Rolls (GF, v)	\$11.50	\$13.75	
Cucumber Hand Rolls (GF, v)	\$11.50	\$13.75	
Vegetarian Hand Rolls (GF, v)	\$11.50	\$13.75	
Tofu Hand Rolls (GF, v)	\$11.50	\$13.75	
RICE PAPER ROLLS (2pc) (Wed, Thu, Fri)			
Chicken Rice Paper Rolls (GF, v)	\$13.45	\$15.45	
Vegetarian Rice Paper Rolls (GF, v)	\$13.45	\$15.45	
SANDWICHES / ROLLS / WRAPS / SOFT SHELL TACOS			
Strawberry Jam Sandwich (1.5) (v)	\$7.45	\$9.95	
Vegemite Sandwich (2) (v)	\$8.95	\$11.45	
Soft Shell Chicken Taco w Salsa, Cheese & Salad (2)	\$9.95	\$12.85	
Plain Cheese Sandwich (2) (v)	\$9.95	\$12.85	
Cheese and Salad Roll (v)	\$10.95	\$13.65	
Wholegrain Ham & Cheese Sandwich (1.5)	\$10.95	\$13.65	
Roast Chicken and Salad Roll (v)	\$11.50	\$13.75	
Roast Beef, Chutney, Cheese & Lettuce Roll	\$11.50	\$13.75	
Turkey, Cranberry, Lettuce & Cheese Sandwich (1.5)	\$11.50	\$13.75	
Mild Salami and Salad Roll	\$11.50	\$13.75	
Wrap w/Chicken, Tzatziki, Lettuce, Tomato Cucumber (v)	\$12.75	\$14.95	
SALADS / PICNIC BOXES / FRUIT & VEG			
Fresh Fruit Salad – Main Course Size (GF, v)	\$11.50	\$13.75	
Vegetarian Picnic Box (GF, v)	\$11.50	\$13.75	
Ham Picnic Box (GF)	\$11.50	\$13.75	
Greek Style Salad with Feta and Olives (GF, v)	\$12.75	\$14.95	
Tortellini Pasta Salad (v)	\$12.75	\$14.95	
GF SANDWICHES & WRAPS			
GF Ham & Cheese Sandwich (1.5)	\$10.95	\$13.65	
GF Cucumber & Ham Sandwich (1.5)	\$10.95	\$13.65	
GF Wrap – Ham and Salad	\$12.75	\$14.95	

Snack/Drink Menu	
FRESH FRUIT & VEGETABLES	
Apple pieces, Lemon juice, Cinnamon & Brown Sugar	~\$1.00
Cantaloupe and Honeydew Pieces	~\$1.00
Fresh Fruit Combo	~\$1.00
Freshly Chopped Orange Segments	Included
Freshly Chopped Strawberries with Grapes	Included
Freshly Chopped Watermelon Pieces	Included
Whole Fruit – Apple	Included
Whole Fruit – Banana	Included
Whole Fruit – Mandarin	Included
Carrot, Cucumber, Red & Yellow Capsicum	Included
Celery and Carrot Sticks with Sultanias	Included
Cherry Tomatoes, Tasty Cheese & Rice Crackers	Included
Corn Wheels & Lightly Steamed Broccoli	Included
Edamame (Lightly Salted)	Included
Sugar Snap Peas, Beans and Cherry Tomatoes	~\$1.00
BAKERY – SWEET	
Choc Chip Cookie	Included
Finger Bun with Sprinkles	Included
Lamington	Included
"Not Cross" Bun	Included
Cinnamon Doughnut	Included
Cornflake Cookie	Included
Choc Cup Cake (GF/DF)	~\$1.00
Blueberry Muffin	~\$1.00
Jam Drop Biscuit (GF)	~\$1.00
Banana Slice (GF)	~\$1.00
SUSHI	
1pc Tuna Sushi (GF)	~\$1.00
POPCORN	
Slightly Sweet, Lightly Salted	Included
Lightly Salted	Included
DRIED FRUIT	
Dried Fruit Medley with Yoghurt Sultanias	~\$1.00
DIPS WITH MINI RICE CAKES / CORN CHIPS	
Tzatziki Dip with Mini Rice Cakes	~\$1.00
Spring Onion Dip with Mini Rice Cakes	~\$1.00
Spicy Capsicum Dip with Mini Rice Cakes	~\$1.00
Avocado Dip with Mini Rice Cakes	~\$1.00
Corn Chips with Salsa (GF)	~\$1.00
YOGHURTS / BOWLS	
Strawberry Yoghurt (Dairy Farmers)	~\$1.00
Classic Vanilla Yoghurt (Dairy Farmers)	~\$1.00
Chia Bowl with Banana, Coconut & Strawberries	~\$1.00
Stewed Rhubarb and Apple with Custard	~\$1.00
DRINKS	
Apple Juice (Nippy's)	Included
Orange Juice (Nippy's)	Included
Chocolate Milk (Nippy's)	Included
Strawberry Milk (Nippy's)	Included
Full Cream Milk	Included

GF = Gluten Free, DF = Dairy Free, H = Halal, V = Vegetarian, VG = Vegan

We are a NUT FREE kitchen. Descriptions, dietary and allergen information available on our website
www.classroomcuisine.com.au

COMMUNICATION AT APS

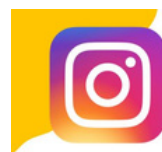
COMPASS: Ongoing communication. Newsfeed items contain reminders and timely information. All payments and consent for events and activities are made through Compass.

NEWSLETTER: Reports what is happening and coming up at APS. Published 3-4 times per term via Compass and the school website.

YEAR LEVEL NEWSLETTERS: Outlines the learning program of each year level. Published twice per term.

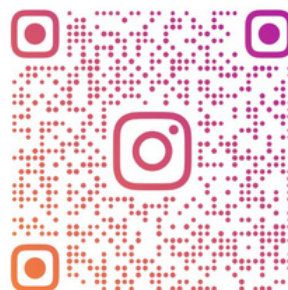
SCHOOL WEBSITE: Information about the school, parent info and whole school calendar.

INSTAGRAM: Visual reminders and photographic updates. Posts updated weekly.



**FOLLOW US ON
INSTAGRAM**

@altonaPrimaryschool



ALTONAPRIMARYSCHOOL



In primary school, some students **miss 3 weeks** on average **per year**. That's **half a year** of school by the end of **year 6**.



EVERY DAY COUNTS

Primary school attendance

Going to school every day is the single most important part of your child's education. Students learn new things at school every day – missing school puts them behind.

Why it's important

We all want our students to get a great education, and the building blocks for a great education begin with students coming to school each and every day.

If students miss school regularly, they miss out on learning the fundamental skills that will set them up for success in the later years of school.

There is no safe number of days for missing school – each day a student misses puts them behind, and can affect their educational outcomes.

Each missed day is associated with progressively lower achievement in numeracy, writing and reading.

Getting in early

Attendance patterns are established early – a child regularly missing days in kindergarten or in the early years of school will often continue to miss classes in the later years, and receive lower test scores than their classmates. It's vital that students go to school every day – even in the early years of primary school.

What we can do

The main reasons for absence are:

Sickness – There are always times when students need to miss school, such as when they're ill. It's vital that they're only away on the days they are genuinely sick, and setting good sleep patterns, eating well and exercising regularly can make a big difference.

It's vital that holidays are planned during school holidays where possible, and not during the term if it can be avoided.

"Day off" – Think twice before letting your child have a "day off" as they could fall behind their classmates – every day counts.

Truancy – This is when students choose not to go to school without their parent's permission. There can be many reasons for truancy. The best way to address this is for schools and parents to work together.

If for any reason your child must miss school, there are things you can do with your school to ensure they don't fall behind:

- Speak with your classroom teacher and find out what work your child needs to do to keep up.

- Develop an absence learning plan with your teacher and ensure your child completes the plan.

Remember, every day counts. If your child must miss school, speak with your classroom teacher as early as possible.

Openly communicating with your child's school about all absences is a good way to prevent attendance issues being escalated to a School Attendance Officer. A School Attendance Officer is a Department of Education and Early Childhood Development Regional Director who has authority to follow up attendance issues. Attendance issues that are escalated can lead to an Infringement Notice.

If you're having attendance issues with your child, please let your classroom teacher know so we can work together to get your child to school every day.

For more information and resources to help address attendance issues, visit:

www.education.vic.gov.au/school/parents/behaviour/Pages/studentattendance.aspx